

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-33 have been cancelled and are being replaced by new claims 34-49, which are pending in the application. Reconsideration and the withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are hereby respectfully requested in view of the new claims and the following remarks.

Applicant's present invention is distinguishable over each of the cited references, and is not taught, suggested or disclosed by those references, either alone, or when combined.

Applicant has presented new claims to more particularly recite the features of the invention.

Applicant's invention provides a dual-purpose wound dressing capable of providing disparate wound healing characteristics to a wound depending on which side of the wound dressing contacts the wound. As recited in the new claims, Applicant's inventive wound dressing has 1) a first wound contacting side having an outer wound contacting surface that has wound healing characteristics and 2) a second wound contacting side having an outer wound contacting surface that has wound healing characteristics different from the wound healing characteristics of the outer surface of the first wound contacting side. Further, new claim 34, and method claim 46, recite the first wound contacting side as being a membrane layer and the second wound contacting side as being a foam layer. Either of the wound contacting layers of Applicant's dual-purpose wound dressing may be applied to a wound surface, as each provides a different wound healing property. These features now appear in the claims. Applicant's invention is not anticipated by Lindqvist (US 6,015,747). Although Lindqvist provides a hydrophobic gel which is skin adhering and provides an absorbent foam it does not teach, suggest or disclose a dual-purpose, wound dressing with disparate wound healing characteristics. Lindqvist actually teaches the opposite, in that the foam layer (2) would not provide the wound

healing characteristics claimed by the Applicant's invention, since that surface in Lindqvist is disclosed to be covered by a "liquid-impervious layer" (5) (col. 4, lines 56-58). For these reasons, Lindqvist does not disclose or suggest the Applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant's invention is also not suggested or disclosed by Hofeditz (US 4,552,138). Hofeditz fails to disclose the Applicant's novel dual-purpose wound dressing which has disparate wound healing properties depending on which side of the wound dressing contacts the wound. Specifically, Hofeditz relates to a dressing material which has a gel and intermediate or covering layer. The Hofeditz reference does not teach a dual-purpose wound dressing where each side may be used to provide disparate wound healing characteristics.

This invention is also not taught, disclosed or suggested by Freeman (US 5,681,579). Freeman discloses a wound dressing, and like the Lindqvist and Hofeditz references, also fails to provide a dual-purpose wound dressing with disparate wound healing characteristics depending on which side of the wound dressing contacts the wound. In Freeman, the polymeric layer (12) is provided on one side. There is no suggestion of using the occlusive layer (11) as a wound healing layer, but rather just the opposite. The occlusive layer (11) of Freeman has an upper surface which is open to the atmosphere. This is not a layer which contacts the wound. The Freeman reference not only fails to disclose the Applicant's invention, but actually teaches away from it.

For the above reasons, Applicant's invention is not taught, suggested or disclosed by the cited references, Lindqvist, Hofeditz and Freeman.

Applicant's invention also is not obvious in view of the cited combinations of references relied on by the Examiner. First, for the reasons set forth above, the cited references fail to

disclose, and for the same reasons, do not teach or suggest, Applicant's present invention, as recited in the new claims. In addition, it would not have been obvious to make the combination of Lindqvist with Lorenz (US 5,258,421) as the Examiner proposes, since the references contain two opposite teachings. Lindqvist, on one hand, discloses hydrophobic gel, and Lorenz, on the other hand, discloses using water-absorbing gel (hydrophilic gel). Furthermore, the absorbing feature in Lorenz appears to be the hydrophilic gel and not the foam layer. (See col. 5, lines 10-13 of Lorenz).

For the same reasons, a further combination of Cartmell (US 5,160,328) with Lindqvist and Lorenz still fails to disclose or suggest the Applicant's present invention. Cartmell discusses a hydrogel bandage. According to Cartmell, there is a hydrogel layer (14) which is hydrophilic, a substrate layer (12) and an adhesive layer (20). The use of an adhesive layer to adhere a particular side of a bandage to a surface (e.g., a wound surface) further teaches away from the Applicant's invention. One of ordinary skill would understand Cartmell to provide a single side contacting surface and a backing layer (12) which is not designed to contact the wound, and which therefore would not provide disparate wound healing properties. Applicant's invention is not taught or disclosed by the combination of references.

For the same reasons as those set forth above in connection with the discussion of Freeman and Lorenz, it would not have been obvious to combine those references, and even if their combination is attempted, the Applicant's claimed invention is still not arrived at.

For the above reasons, Applicant's present invention, as now recited in claims 34-49, is not anticipated by, nor is it obvious in view of, the cited references relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and a withdrawal of the rejections.

CONCLUSION

If necessary, an appropriate extension of time to respond is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to
Patent Office Deposit Account No. 05-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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